

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 22: HEALTH AND WELFARE**  
**Chapter 1161: MUNICIPAL GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

**§4314. COOPERATION IN ADMINISTRATION OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

**1. State departments.** Upon the request of any municipal official charged with the responsibility of administering general assistance, the Department of Health and Human Services and any other department of the State having information which has a bearing on the eligibility of any person applying for general assistance shall release that information. The information shall be restricted to those facts necessary for the official to make a determination of eligibility for general assistance.

[ 1983, c. 577, §1 (NEW); 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV) . ]

**2. Financial institutions.** A treasurer of any bank, federally or state-chartered credit union, trust company, benefit association, insurance company, safe deposit company or any corporation or association receiving deposits of money, except national banks, shall, on request in writing signed by the overseer of any municipality or its agents, or by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's agents or by the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management or the commissioner's agents, inform that overseer or the Department of Health and Human Services or the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services of the amount deposited in the corporation or association to the credit of the person named in the request, who is a charge upon the municipality or the State, or who has applied for support to the municipality or the State.

[ 1997, c. 455, §§8, 32 (AMD); 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §§6, 7 (REV) . ]

**3. Verification of employment.** The applicant has responsibility for providing documentary verification of benefits received during the period for which assistance is requested, or in the month immediately prior to the application for assistance when those wages and benefits are expected to be the same during the period for which assistance is requested.

The overseer shall give the applicant written notice that if the applicant does not provide the documentary verification within one week of the application, the employer will be contacted.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every employer shall, upon written request of the overseer, release information regarding any wages or other financial benefits paid to the applicant or a member of the applicant's household. No employer may discharge or otherwise adversely affect an employee because of any request for information pursuant to this section.

[ 1983, c. 577, §1 (NEW) . ]

**4. Confidentiality.** Any person who seeks and obtains information under this section is subject to the same rules of confidentiality as the person who is caretaker of the information which is by law confidential.

[ 1983, c. 577, §1 (NEW) . ]

**5. Refusal.** Any person who refuses to provide any information to an overseer who requests it in accordance with this section shall state in writing the reasons for the refusal within 3 days of receiving the request.

[ 1983, c. 577, §1 (NEW) . ]

**6. Refusal; penalty.** A person who refuses upon request to provide information under this section without just cause commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$25 and not more than \$100 may be adjudged.

[ 2003, c. 452, Pt. K, §25 (AMD); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF) .]

**7. False information; penalty.** A person who intentionally or knowingly renders false information under this section to an administrator commits a Class E crime.

[ 2003, c. 452, Pt. K, §26 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1983, c. 577, §1 (NEW). 1991, c. 626, §4 (AMD). 1995, c. 86, §2 (AMD). 1997, c. 455, §§8,32 (AMD). 2003, c. 452, §§K25,26 (AMD). 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). 2003, c. 689, §§B6,7 (REV).

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